

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: EEC, EP, PERP, MMOL  
SUBJ: THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S REPORT ON EUROPEAN ARMS  
PROCUREMENT COOPERATION -- THE COMMISSION REACTS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 11859 (B) BRUSSELS 10596  
(C) BRUSSELS 10480 (D) BRUSSELS 4160

1. SUMMARY: AT JUNE 23 PRESS CONFERENCE, EC COMMISSIONER  
DAVIGNON AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIAN ANTON KLEPSCH DIS-  
CUSSED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S (EP)  
RECENT ADOPTION OF ITS POLITICAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON  
ARMS PROCUREMENT COOPERATION (REF A). BOTH EMPHASIZED  
THAT THE OBJECT OF THE REPORT IS TO FOSTER A RATIONALIZA-  
TION OF EUROPEAN ARMS PRODUCTION IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY  
DEVELOP A COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR THE COMMUNITY  
RATHER THAN TO HAVE THE EC BECOME INVOLVED IN MILITARY  
MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE OUTSET OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE, KLEPSCH RE-  
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ITERATED THAT THE INTENTION OF HIS REPORT, WHICH WAS  
ADOPTED BY THE EP LAST WEEK (REF A), IS TO DEVELOP A  
STRUCTURED EUROPEAN MARKET IN THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT  
SECTOR IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE CREATION OF A COMMON EC  
INDUSTRIAL POLICY. HE ANNOUNCED THAT EC COMMISSIONER  
DAVIGNON AND MOST EP MEMBERS ARE IN FAVOR OF CLOSER CO-  
OPERATION BETWEEN THE EP AND THE COMMISSION IN FORMULATING

AN OVERALL EC INDUSTRIAL POLICY, AND THAT HE WILL BE PROPOSING CREATION OF A STUDY GROUP FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. DAVIGNON REITERATED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS NO INTENTION OF GETTING INVOLVED IN MILITARY AFFAIRS, WHICH ARE NOT WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE EC, BUT WHICH ARE INSTEAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EC MEMBER STATES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE ESSENTIAL FIELDS OF DEVELOPMENT WHERE THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SECTORS ARE CLOSELY INTERLINKED AND WHERE ARMS PRODUCTION HAS AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE EC'S OVERALL INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE. UNDER

THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, DAVIGNON CONTINUED, IT IS BOTH WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S COMPETENCE AND NORMAL FOR IT TO EXAMINE MEASURES LIKELY TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL FUNCTIONING OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. HE ADDED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS NO INTENTION OF PROMOTING ARMS EXPORTS BUT IS INTERESTED IN RENDERING MORE COST-EFFECTIVE THE INCREASING MILITARY EXPENDITURES OF THE EC MEMBER STATES. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION PLANS TO CONSULT WITH MEMBER STATES AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BEFORE IT ISSUES ANY DOCUMENT ON THE QUESTIONHB ARMS PRODUCTION/ PROCUREMENT COOPERATION, WHICH HE LATER SAID MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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